Appl. No. 10/623,360 DCS-9176

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

## **Listing of Claims:**

- 1. (currently amended) A method for cleansing a used reaction cuvette such that whenever an assay in a first group of assays is <u>determined to be</u> scheduled to be next performed in the cuvette <u>by examining the identify of assays yet to be performed</u>, the cuvette is cleansed by a first series of cleansing operations and whenever an assay in a second group of assays is <u>determined to be</u> scheduled to be next performed in the cuvette <u>by examining the identify of assays yet to be performed</u>, the cuvette is cleansed by a second <u>different</u> series of cleansing operations.
- 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first group of assays comprises assays previously determined to potentially have inaccurate assay results if reaction residues in a cleansed used cuvette are greater than a known value and wherein the second group of assays comprises assays previously determined to not potentially have inaccurate assay results if reaction residues in a cleansed used cuvette are greater than the known value.
- 3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cleansing operations comprise a series of mini-washes followed by vacuum drying the cuvette.
- 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first series of cleansing operations includes more cleansing operations than the second series of cleansing operations.

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5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 2 wherein the assays involve potentially harmful agents and residue from the mini-washes is discharged into a first secure storage and wherein the assays involve biological or innocuous chemical agents and residue from the mini-washes is discharged into a second secure storage.

- 6. (withdrawn)
- 7. (withdrawn)
- 8. (withdrawn)
- 9. (withdrawn)
- 10. (withdrawn)
- 11. (withdrawn)
- 12. (currently amended) A method for cleansing a used reaction cuvette such that whenever an assay in a first group of assays is <u>determined to have has</u> been previously performed in the cuvette <u>by examining the identify of assays already performed</u>, the cuvette is cleansed by a first series of cleansing operations and whenever an assay in a second group of assays has been previously performed in the cuvette <u>by examining the identify of assays already performed</u>, the cuvette is cleansed by a second different series of cleansing operations.
- 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the cleansing operations comprise a series of mini-washes followed by vacuum drying the cuvette.
- 14. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the first series of cleansing operations includes more cleansing operations than the second series of cleansing operations.